

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-01 AID-05

NEAE-00 /057 W

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P 041540Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0111

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USMTM DHAHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0831

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA

SUBJ: SAUDI CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION
RESTRICTING U.S. MILITARY MISSIONS ABROAD

REF : JIDDA 0093

1. PRINCE TURKI, ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND MOHAMMAD MAS'UD, SAUDI ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ASKED THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 3 ABOUT THE REPORTS CONGRESS MAY SOON SUSPEND MILITARY ADVISORY ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGNERS.

2. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT BILLS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO CONGRESS TO REDUCE OR EVEN ELIMINATE MILITARY MISSION ABROAD; THEY HAD BEEN DEFEATED IN THE LAST CONGRESS AND HE HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT SIMILAR BILLS WOULD BE INTRODUCED AGAIN. HE DID NOT KNOW THEIR STATUS OR WHAT EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON SAUDI ARABIA.

3. BOTH SAUDIS SAID THEY WERE EXTREMELY DISTURBED ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY AND ASKED IF THE UNITED STATES DID NOT REALIZE WHAT PASSAGE OF SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD DO TO ITS INFLUENCE AND POSITION ABROAD; HOW THE NON-COMMUNIST ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES WERE IN NO POSITION TO TAKE OVER FROM THE UNITED
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STATES, AND HOW THEREFORE ONLY THE COMMUNISTS COULD BENEFIT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE STATUS OF ANY SUCH BILLS OR WHAT EFFECT THEY WOULD HAVE ON SAUDI ARABIA HE WOULD CHECK.

5. COMMENT: WE TRUST THAT THIS SAUDI CONCERN IS SOMEWHAT ALARMIST. HOWEVER, TO EXTENT THAT SAUDIS FEAR REDUCTION OF US MILITARY ADVISORY AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE, THIS CREATES RECEPTIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR PRESENTATION OF USMTM FMS SALES CASE AND ACCOMPANYING MOU ESTABLISHING PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR ADVISORY PERSONNEL. FOR THIS REASON EMBASSY HOPES THAT REVIEW OF SALES CASE AND PROPOSED MOU CAN BE EXPEDITED.

6. CODEL PRICE MAY WELL BE ASKED TO COMMENT ON STRENGTH OF SUCH CONGRESSIONAL FEELING.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) HAVE ANY SUCH BILLS BEEN INTRODUCED? (B) IF SO, PLEASE SEND TEXTS TO US WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S OR DOD'S, ESTIMATES OF THEIR CHANCES OF PASSING. (C) IF BILLS ARE NOT EXPLICIT, INFORM US OF WASHINGTON'S ASSESSMENT OF WHAT EFFECT THESE BILLS WOULD HAVE THE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA.
AKINS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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